

# California State Board of Food and Agriculture

## Overview

*The State Board of Food and Agriculture advises the governor and secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture on agricultural issues and consumer needs.*

*The board's 15 members are appointed by the governor and are carefully selected to represent a broad range of agricultural commodities, a variety of geographic regions, and both the University of California and California State University academic systems.*

## Current Members

### Charles D. "Chuck" Ahlem

#### Member since 1994

Ahlem has owned the Charles Ahlem Ranch, a dairy operation, since 1974. He is also a founding partner and part owner in Hilmar Cheese Company. Ahlem has been a member of the Merced County Farm Bureau since 1974 and is an active member of the Turlock Rotary Club and the Western United Dairymen. In March 1996, Ahlem was a delegate with CDFA's trade mission to Asia. Ahlem earned a bachelor's degree in dairy science from Fresno State University.

### Drue P. Brown

#### Member since 2001

Brown has owned AgCEL, a San Diego-based consulting company specializing in agriculture and the environment, since 1995. Prior to forming his company, Brown consulted on agricultural issues in various capacities for 18 years. He served as principal investigator for the UC Davis Community Outreach Partnership Center and as senior consultant for the Assembly Office of Research. He earned a bachelor and master of science degrees from the University of California Davis.

### A. Charles Crabb, Ph.D.

#### Member since 2001

In 1999, Dr. Crabb was named dean of the College of Agriculture at California State University Chico. Previous to this position, he was director of the UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, South Central Region. He is a member of the California Vertebrate Pest Council and has authored and co-authored 26 publications on pest management. Dr. Crabb earned a bachelor's degree in wildlife and fisheries biology and a doctorate in ecology from the University of California Davis. He earned his master's degree in biology from Bowling Green State University.

### Mary Eisen Cramer

#### Member since 2001

Cramer served as vice president of Norco Ranch until its acquisition by Moark Productions and Land-O-Lakes in 2000. She has served as a board member on the California Egg Commission from 1996 to 2001 and on the West Coast United Egg Producers from 1997 to 2000. She has received several awards, including the 64<sup>th</sup> Assembly District Woman of the Year in March 1997. Cramer received a bachelor of arts degree from Woodbury University in Los Angeles.

### W.R. "Reg" Gomes, Ph.D.

#### Member since 1996

Dr. Gomes has served as vice-president of agriculture and natural resources for the University of California system since 1995. He is also the university's representative to the Joint Policy Council on Agriculture and Higher Education, serving as co-chair, and he is a member of the board of directors for the California Farm Bureau Federation. Dr. Gomes earned a bachelor's degree from California Polytechnic State University, a master's degree in dairy science from Washington State University, and a doctorate in animal science from Purdue University.

### John H. Hayashi

#### Member since 2001

Hayashi is general manager of Y. Hayashi & Sons, founded in 1972. He is managing partner of Irrigation West, where he designed and implemented a new program for water conservation. Since 1991, Hayashi has also acted as president of FARM, Inc., where he has consulted with clients regarding production of fresh vegetables using less water, fertilizers and chemicals without loss in yields. Hayashi studied agriculture at California Polytechnic State University.



## California State Board of Food and Agriculture

### Membership

*Board members are residents of California and are specially qualified for service through farm, business, agricultural economics, environmental protection, or consumer affairs experience.*

*Members serve four-year terms without pay. There are no term limits and appointments do not require Senate confirmation.*

*Members are selected using the following guidelines:*

- *One member represents the agricultural sciences division of the University of California.*
- *One member represents the agricultural department of a state university or college offering agriculture as part of the curriculum.*
- *Two members are from the state at-large and represent the agricultural industry.*
- *Seven members represent the agricultural industry.*
- *Two members with knowledge of the environment represent the public.*
- *Two members with knowledge of consumer affairs represent the public.*

#### **John Charles Hisserich, Ph.D.**

##### **Member since 2001**

Dr. Hisserich has held the position of associate vice president of health affairs for the University of Southern California (USC) since 1985. At USC, he currently holds academic appointments in the schools of medicine and pharmacy and is an adjunct assistant professor of public administration. He has held all three of these positions since 1984. Previous to these appointments, he served as clinical associate professor of family and preventive medicine at USC's school of medicine. Dr. Hisserich has served on the California Coastal Commission and Committee of Bar Examiners, for which he has twice served as chair. Dr. Hisserich holds a bachelor's degree in government from California State University Los Angeles and master's and doctorate degrees in public health from the University of California Los Angeles.

#### **A.G. Kawamura**

##### **Member since 1999**

Kawamura is a produce grower and shipper in Orange County, managing 600 acres. He specializes in strawberries, celery and green beans. He is former president of the Orange

County Farm Bureau and remains active in both industry and civic affairs. He is currently president of the Orange County Agricultural Association; director on the California Celery Advisory Board; president of Orange County Harvest, a nonprofit organization; vice-chairman of the Orange County Hunger Coalition; and a trustee for Sage Hill High School. Kawamura has a bachelor's degree in comparative literature from the University of California Berkeley.

#### **Douglas Maddox**

##### **Member since 2001**

Maddox has held the position of president of Ru-Ann Dairy and Maddox Dairy Farms since 1957. He is a member of the Western United Dairymen and the Holstein Association. Maddox has also served on the President's Cabinet at California Polytechnic State University since 1985. His herd has been in the Number One Honor List Herd in the United States six times, and he recently received the National Dairy Shrine's Distinguished Dairy Cattle Breeder Award for 2001. Maddox earned degrees in dairy science and agricultural education from California Polytechnic State University.

#### **Craig McNamara**

##### **Member since 2001**

McNamara is president and owner of Sierra Orchards, a diversified farming operation that includes field, processing and marketing operations, producing primarily walnuts and grape rootstock. He also serves as the founder and executive director of the FARMS Leadership Program. McNamara is a trustee of the University of California Merced, chairman of the Agricultural Network, commissioner and past chair of the California Walnut Commission, and member of the UC Davis Dean's Advisory Council. McNamara received a bachelor's degree in plant and soil science from the University of California Davis.

#### **Marvin A. Meyers**

##### **Member since 2001**

Meyers runs a diversified farming operation in partnership with his son and daughter through Meyers Farming, Oxford Farms, Inc., and Meyers Farms Family Trust. Crops include almonds, cotton, sugar beets, grain, numerous varieties of beans, and tomatoes. Meyers is chairman of the Improvement District No. 2 Advisory Committee and the California State Vertebrate Pest Control Research Advisory



## California State Board of Food and Agriculture

### Contact Info

*If you have questions or comments regarding California State Board of Food and Agriculture members or meetings, you may contact:*

#### **Karen Manor**

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and Agriculture  
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### 2002 Calendar

*Unless noted otherwise, meetings of the State Board of Food and Agriculture are held in the California Department of Food and Agriculture's auditorium at 1220 N Street, Sacramento.*

#### **Tentative schedule:**

**February 20, 2002**

**March 27, 2002**

**April 24, 2002**

**May 29, 2002**

**June 26, 2002**

**July 24, 2002**

**August 28, 2002**

**September 25, 2002**

**October 30, 2002**

**November 20, 2002**

**December 18, 2002**

Committee. He is a member of the board of directors for the San Luis Water District, Western Growers Association, National Cotton Council and California Farm Bureau Federation. Meyers earned a bachelor of arts degree from California State University Fresno.

#### **Mary Borba Parente**

##### **Member since 2001**

Parente has owned and operated the L&M Dairy in Chino, California, since 1975. Parente is a member of the Dairy Council of California, alternate to the California Milk Advisory Board, and member of the executive council of the Security Milk Association. She is also a member of the board of directors of the American Ag Credit Board and Southern California Milk Marketing Agency. Parente is chairperson of the Agricultural Preserve Advisory Committee for the city of Ontario. She earned a bachelor of arts degree from the University of San Diego.

#### **Pete Penner**

##### **Member since 1993**

Penner has been president of Penner Enterprises, Inc., a diversified farming and tree topping company, since 1955. He has owned PenCo Farms, Inc. since 1978. Penner has served on the board of directors of Sun Maid Growers of California since 1980 and the Raisin Administrative Committee since 1976. Penner currently serves as chairman of the board for all three organizations.

#### **Karen Ross**

##### **Member since 2001**

Ross is president of the California Association of Winegrape Growers and is executive director of the Winegrape Growers of America and the California Winegrape Growers Foundation. Ross has held these positions since 1996. She previously held positions as vice president of government affairs for the Agricultural Council of California and director of government relations for the Nebraska Rural Electric Association. She received a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Nebraska Lincoln.